Ministry of
Agriculture

2014/15
Annual Service Plan Report

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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement

It is my pleasure to present the Ministry of Agriculture's 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report. We have seen nearly $1 billion dollars in sector growth in the last three years – and we want to build on this momentum as we look to achieve our goal of $14 billion in agrifoods revenue by 2017. We are working with B.C.'s farmers, ranchers and food processors to make sure we get there. Our investments support that commitment.

The B.C. government has invested $6 million in the Buy Local program since 2012 to help B.C. companies find new local customers. In the meantime, B.C. agrifoods reached a record of $3 billion in exports in 2014 to more than 150 countries including the United States with $2 billion in exports. There have also been record agrifood exports to China in each of the last five years, more than double that of 2010.

B.C. exported about $1 billion of seafood in 2014 and Atlantic salmon has been our province's top agricultural export for the past five years. The B.C. Government is committed to the socially and ecologically responsible management of B.C. fisheries, including an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry for the benefit of all British Columbians. The new Fish and Seafood Act we passed this spring replaced legislation that was last significantly updated in the 1960s with a modern framework that builds on B.C.'s local and international reputation as a source of sustainable and trusted seafood products, and improves operating conditions for B.C.'s seafood sector.

We have also committed $8.4 million for a seven-year tree fruit Replant Program that supports growers' efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high quality B.C. fruit. The BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals received $5 million to support the replacement or renovation of BC SPCA facilities in 10 communities throughout the province. The B.C. government is also better equipped to manage and respond to animal diseases as a result of the Animal Health Act and associated regulations coming into force this January. The act replaced almost-70-year-old-legislation and enables the B.C. government to respond with modern animal disease management practices.

B.C. producers continue to receive support through Growing Forward 2 (GF2) as the federal and provincial government are investing about $426.9 million in B.C. through this program from 2013-2018. GF2 provides B.C. producers with risk management support and programs that offer income stability in difficult times. Overall, GF2 ensures our province's producers and processors are using the latest knowledge and technology so they can compete internationally and maximize their potential for earning new dollars while providing high quality food.

We look forward to continuing to create more jobs, opportunities and wealth for farming families and British Columbians working in our agrifoods sector. The Ministry of Agriculture *2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2014/15 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture

June 19, 2015

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agricultural products and food; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional or education programs, projects or undertakings relating to agriculture and food; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and food. The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 31 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/agric.htm.

Strategic Direction

The Ministry of Agriculture works to promote an innovative, adaptive and globally competitive agrifood and seafood sector for the benefit of all British Columbians. The Ministry of Agriculture's operations are guided by the Minister's Mandate Letter, the Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan, and *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*. In addition, the *2012 B.C. Agrifoods Strategy* sets out actions that informed the Ministry's work to help grow B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector. The Ministry, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Farm Industry Review Board operates under the Taxpayer Accountability Principles of *cost consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity* in order to ensure that the priorities and values of government and the citizens of British Columbia are reflected in the decisions and actions that the Ministry takes.

Strategic Context

The agrifood and seafood sector, comprised of agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and processing, has a track record of reliable and steady economic growth that provides jobs in every B.C. community. The sector has responded to challenges and opportunities that have arisen with a growing world population, rising incomes, and climate change. While much has been accomplished, there is still more to do as new markets, products, competitors and issues impact the sector. To address these challenges the Minister of Agriculture established the *Minister's Agrifood Advisory Committee* comprised of leaders from over 20 stakeholder groups, including the agrifood and seafood business community, academia, and local food movement as well as provincial and federal government staff.

British Columbia's real GDP increased by 2.6 per cent in 2014 (according to preliminary GDP by industry data from Statistics Canada), following growth of 1.9 per cent in 2013. Several risks to British Columbia's economy remain, however, including the potential for a slowdown in domestic and US activity, ongoing fragility in Europe, and slower than anticipated Asian demand, particularly in China. Additional risks include a fluctuating Canadian dollar and weak inflation, in part due to lower oil prices.

Despite these challenges, the province's agrifood and seafood export levels in 2014 represent the highest total ever, reaching nearly $3 billion and a growth of 11 per cent. In addition, the competitiveness and profitability of producers and processors will benefit from the declining Canadian dollar seen through 2014 and into the first quarter of 2015 combined with notably lower energy costs. The sector competes in international markets where Canada is now negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements. With over 80 per cent of seafood harvested in B.C. destined for the export market, there is a strong focus on maintaining access and competitive advantage in global markets, necessitating quick responses from the sector to shifting market opportunities.

Report on Performance

This section reflects performance related to the goals, objectives, performance measures and targets contained in the 2014/15 - 2015/16 Service Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture. The full report on Minister's Mandate Letter (June 2014) can be found in Appendix D – Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary.

Goal 1: Agriculture and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province For greater detail see pages 7 to 10	**2014/15 Target**	**2014/15 Actual**
1.1 A sustainable agriculture and food sector Ratio of administration costs to premiums for Production Insurance	20:80	EXCEEDED 15:85
1.2 Strategic growth and development of the agriculture and food sector Annual revenue growth in agriculture, seafood, food and beverage sectors		
• Farm Cash Receipts	4% growth	EXCEEDED 4.6 %increase
• Seafood	1% growth landed value	Data Not Yet Available
• Food and Beverage Manufacturing Shipments	5% growth	EXCEEDED 7.2 %increase
Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector For greater detail see pages 10 to 12	**2014/15 Target**	**2014/15 Actual**
2.1 Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed.		EXCEEDED
• Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans	4201	4237
• Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	225	261
2.2 Sustainable agriculture management practices that assist successful mitigation of and adaption to climate change Cumulative tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced or averted from actions supported by Ministry programs		DID NOT ACHIEVE
• Cumulative reduction	122,000	120,453
• Annual reduction	15,000	13,453
Goal 3: Community and social well-being is enhanced by agriculture and food sector practices For greater detail see pages12 to 15	**2014/15 Target**	**2014/15 Actual**
3.1 Promote a positive urban/agriculture relationship to facilitate sustainable growth for farms while enhancing the overall quality of life for British Columbians Number of agriculture area plans completed		ACHIEVED
• Cumulative number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	61	61
• Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	4	4
3.2 Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded Percent of routine (diagnostic) animal and plant samples completed within seven working days	88%	DID NOT ACHIEVE 87%

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The Ministry's service plan is organized around three long-term goals:

- *Goal 1*: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province;
- *Goal 2*: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector; and,
- *Goal 3*: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's strategic priorities as laid out in the Minister's Mandate Letter, the Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan, and Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan. These strategic priorities are consolidated and reflected in this service plan.

Goal 1: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province

Objective 1.1: An economically sustainable agricultural and food sector.

The Ministry supports sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that provide farmers with tools to adapt and sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

Strategies

- Promote, deliver and improve national business risk management programs and services.
- Provide strategic business development leadership and build business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agricultural and food sector.
- Work with the University of the Fraser Valley and the Ministry of Advanced Education to create a new Centre of Excellence for Agriculture.
- Continue to provide carbon tax relief to the agricultural sector, as committed to in *Balanced Budget 2013*.
- Begin development of a sustainable tree fruit replant program for implementation upon the expiry of the existing program.

Performance Measure 1: Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance premiums.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Ratio of administrative costs[1] to Production Insurance premiums	20:80	20:80	15:85	20:80	20:80

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture.

[1] Administrative costs include both fixed and variable costs.

Discussion of Results

This measure indicates efficiency of government's delivery of the Production Insurance program by comparing administrative cost ratios to the private sectors. Production Insurance in Canada is delivered by provincial administrations.

Production Insurance administrative costs vary widely between provinces. Provinces with diverse types of crops and relatively low farm cash receipts, such as B.C., tend to have relatively higher program costs than do provinces with homogeneous crop production and higher farm cash receipts. The value of the crops produced is also significant when considering administrative costs. Production Insurance, as with all insurance, must incur administrative costs to protect the program from abuse and adverse selection; failure to do so results in high claim rates which cause higher producer premiums and overall program costs. Administrative costs relative to insurance premiums have fallen over the last five years from a ratio of 20:80 in 2010/11 (also the target ratio) to ratio of 15:85 in the 2014/15 fiscal year. This was achieved through organization rationalization as well as the implementation of sophisticated technology reporting for on-farm delivery.

Objective 1.2: Strategic growth and development of the agrifoods sector.

The Ministry encourages growth in the agrifoods sector through programs that foster innovation, competitiveness and improved market access.

Strategies

- Facilitate access to new markets for B.C. agrifoods producers and processors by seeking resolution of trade barriers to B.C. agrifoods products in international and domestic markets, including interprovincial barriers to trade in wine.
- Help producers and processors to capitalize on new market opportunities.
- Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for B.C. agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.
- Work with the B.C. Association of Cattle Feeders in development and promotion of their "Certified Beef" brand and with the provincial organic farming sector to enhance branding of B.C. organic foods.
- Support innovative product and process development, commercialization and technology adoption.
- Enable production and use of renewable energy.
- Support the building of industry capacity through enhanced access to relevant information and funding programs.

Performance Measure 2: Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry.

Performance Measure[1]	2012	2013 Actuals	2014 Target	2014 Forecast	2015 Target	2016 Target
Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry[3]	Farm Cash Receipts[2] $2.752 billion	$2.792 billion 1.5% Growth in farm cash receipts	4.0% Growth in farm cash	$2.920 billion 4.6% Growth	4.5% Growth in farm cash receipts	5.0% Growth in farm cash receipts

			receipts	in farm cash receipts		
	Seafood $0.704 billion	$0.811 billion 15.1% Growth in landed value	1.0% Growth in landed value	$0.811 billion (2014 Data expected mid July 2015)	1.0% Growth in landed value	1.0% Growth in landed value
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing[4] $7.856 billion	$7.953 billion 1.2% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	5.0% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	$8.525 billion 7% Growth in the value of shipments for food and beverage	5.5% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	6.0% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage
Total Annual Projected Revenue	$11.312 billion	$11.556 billion	$12.073 billion	$12.255 billion	$12.864 billion	$13.564 billion

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-001; B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, 2013 Seafood Year-in-Review; and adapted from Cansim Table 304-0015.

[1] For consistency, revenue growth is calculated using the actual published 2012 revenues rather than the three year average used in the 2012/13 – 2014/15 Service Plan; Values for 2012 and 2013 have been revised at the time of this reporting to include the most current data available; and 2014 are forecasts based on the available data.

[2] Farm cash receipts include crop and livestock receipts as well as direct payments to the sector.

[3] The agrifoods industry includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and processing/manufacturing.

[4] The July to December 2012 Beverage Manufacturing estimates were imputed using the 2011 estimates for the same months since the 2012 data were restricted for confidentiality reasons.

Discussion of Results

This measure reflects the growth in annual revenues by the agrifoods sector by monitoring growth in the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the estimated value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors. Revenue growth is an indicator of the contribution of B.C.'s agrifoods industries to the provincial economy. Targets are based on the average annual rate of change in revenues. Since these revenues are driven by market conditions, they are not wholly under the Ministry's control.

Values for 2013 have been revised and 2014 forecasts are estimates based on best data currently available. Farm cash receipts (including program payments to producers) increased in 2014 with significant increases in B.C.'s beef, grain and blueberry receipts. Seafood landed values increased in 2013 with notably higher values in tuna and cultured salmon. The total value of food and beverage processing shipment values for 2014 are estimated to be up over 7 per cent compared to 2013. The

2015-2016 targets, if achieved, would see the agrifoods industry revenues reach the Agrifoods Strategy goal of $14 billion in sector revenues by 2017.

Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing.

The Ministry supports the agrifoods sector to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

- Provide programs and activities to identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable adoption of best management practices supporting environmentally responsible production. For example, the Agriculture Water Demand Model will be expanded to the South Thompson, Cariboo Regional District, Peace River and Islands Trust in 2014/15 to help ensure adequate water supply for food production.
- Support local governments, as well as the agricultural and food sectors to respond to and recover from environmental disasters.
- Work with commercial fishing industry to maintain and expand world standard eco-certification, such as that set by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans[1]	3976[2]	4201	4237	4437	4612
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	209	225	261	200	175

Data Source: Agricultural Research and Development Corporation reports and agreements.

[1] Canada-British Columbia *Growing Forward* Agreement (2008-2013) and *Growing Forward 2*, (2013-2018).

[2] The 2013/14 Base data are made up of the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. This data has been updated from the 2014/15 Service Plan to reflect actual values.

Discussion of Results:

This measure provides an indication of the response of farmers to environmental opportunities and risks on their farms. An Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, confidential assessment of opportunities to enhance environmental operations of B.C. farms and ranches. An assessment is conducted by the farm/ranch operator with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. These

assessments are a pre-requisite to accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations.

Demand for completion of Environmental Farm Plans was increased in the second year (2014/15) of the Growing Forward 2 agreement. The target of 200 new plans was achieved. The combined total of new, renewed and group based environmental farm plans was 367. Being the second year of the agreement and with enhanced communication activities, eligible participants were more aware of the program. These enhanced communication activities focused on producers who were seeking new plans to allow them to connect with marketing opportunities for their farm products.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifoods management practices that assist successful mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Strategies

- Promote opportunities for reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and encourage improved environmental practice initiatives in the sector, which is striving to become more carbon-neutral.
- Support the Province's climate change goals by identifying, researching and developing market opportunities for the agrifoods sector, including development and use of new products that will thrive under new climatic conditions.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water and energy use by the agrifoods sector.
- Foster industry responsiveness to new and emerging capture fisheries and aquaculture opportunities to enable development and diversification of seafood products.

Performance Measure 4: Cumulative and annual reduction of agricultural sector carbon dioxide (CO_2) or carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions arising from actions supported by Ministry programs.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual[1]	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target[2]	2014/15 Actual[1]
Cumulative reduction in CO_2 or CO_2e emissions resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs[1]	91,000	107,000	122,000	120,453
Annual reduction in CO_2 or CO_2e emissions resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs	23,000	16,000	15,000	13,453

Data Source: Pacific Carbon Trust (now with the Climate Action Secretariat); Ministry of Environment

[1] Number of offset tonnes of carbon dioxide or CO_2 equivalent emissions purchased or retired through the Pacific Carbon Trust or the Ministry of Environment each year in emissions reduction projects in the agricultural sector, (e.g. energy efficiencies in the greenhouse industry); carbon offsets are measured as one metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e).

[2] Target numbers were contingent on continued offset contracting between agriculture companies and the Climate Action Secretariat.
[3] This performance measure was discontinued for 2015/16 and subsequent years, as the Ministry of Agriculture has made climate change adaptation programming a more strategic focus. As such, the 2015/16 service plan identifies the new Performance Measure 4 for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as "Number of regional adaptation strategies completed". Progress on this new performance measure will be tracked in future service plans and service plan reports.

Discussion of Results

This measure indicated the progress made by government in encouraging agriculture related businesses to adopt technologies and/or implement practices that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions reductions come primarily from four carbon offset projects with BC greenhouses: Katatheon Farms in Langley, Sun Select Farms in Delta, Quik's Farm in Chilliwack, and Randhawa Farms in Abbotsford. These projects are a mix of energy efficiency and fuel switching initiatives. The Ministry will continue to engage with both the Climate Action Secretariat and the agriculture industry to identify opportunities and promote greenhouse gas emission reduction.

For 2012/13 onwards, the Ministry made a strategic decision to focus on supporting the agriculture sector to adapt successfully to climate change. Climate change has significant economic, social and environmental implications for B.C. farmers; the Ministry is working closely with the industry to ensure that negative effects of climate change are managed and minimized. Progress on this priority will be tracked in future service plan reports through the number of regional climate change adaptation strategy plans completed by the B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative.

Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban / agrifoods relationship to facilitate sustainable production for farms.

Agricultural activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. With only 1.5 per cent of British Columbians living on farms, it has become increasingly important for local governments to keep in touch with farm and ranch communities to help facilitate support for the agricultural sector. Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry supports the Agricultural Land Commission's work by promoting a positive urban / agricultural environment to ensure farmers can continue to farm in farming areas.

Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifoods sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas.
- Support and deliver on activities contributing to sustainable agriculture business development in First Nations communities.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture's contribution to communities through proactive, province-wide communication strategies.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement a tax credit program for farmers who donate their farmed food to B.C. food banks.

- Propose any changes needed to the Agricultural Land Reserve to support the Agricultural Land Commission's work to fulfill its mandate to balance protection of good farmland with the stability of farm families and the farming industry and responsible economic development.
- Support local food initiatives, such as "Buy Local", to promote B.C. products domestically.
- Provide information to inform Provincial and Federal agency decisions regarding siting and operation of aquaculture facilities.
- Projects, training, workshops and resources to provide youth with current information on the BC agriculture industry, farm safety, animal care, issues facing agriculture, and sustainable agriculture.

Performance Measure 5: Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	201516 Target	2016/17 Target
Cumulative number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	57	61	61	65	69
Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed per year	5	4	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Discussion of Results

This measure provides an indication of how capacity is being built within farm communities to influence issues that affect agriculture. An Agricultural Area Plan is a community-based initiative to develop practical solutions to agricultural issues and to identify opportunities to strengthen farming. Key stakeholders assist in the preparation of the plan, which includes strategies for economic development, marketing, processing, agri-tourism and proposals for bylaw amendments to support agriculture. Relevant parts of an Agricultural Area Plan become a component of the official community plan.

Four additional plans were completed in 2014/15 for a total of 61. There are at least four more plans underway over the next year. Speed of completing a plan depends on diverse variables such as funding, ease of providing the background information and the availability of stakeholders to provide input into the plan.

Objective 3.2: Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded.

The Ministry, in partnership with federal, provincial and local government agencies, delivers services and initiatives to effectively manage food safety, plant, fish and livestock health risks contributing to positive public health and to maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.

Strategies

- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks.

- Implement and deliver comprehensive provincial level programs for animal and plant health that manage the risks of animal disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.
- Protect the health of British Columbians by beginning development of a food safety strategy and increasing awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices in the agrifood sector.
- Further develop a provincially-operated, cost-effective meat inspection program to ensure ongoing food safety and industry support as well as livestock health and welfare.
- Maintain a provincially operated, cost effective seafood inspection system to ensure food safety, industry support, fish health and welfare in aquaculture production facilities and the value chain for fish handling and processing.
- Deliver plant health management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Advise growers on best management practices for pest control.
- Provide training for safe use of pesticides which would enable registration of low risk products.

Performance Measure 6: Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Forecast	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days[1]	87%	88%	87%	89%	90%

Data Source: **Ministry of Agriculture**

[1] Samples tested in-house and not referred to another laboratory. Diagnostic tests require minimum times to complete, depending on the nature of the test.

Discussion of Results

Turnaround time (TAT) is used as the performance measure for the Animal Health Centre Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AHL) as it is one of the most noticeable signs of laboratory service and is often used as a key performance indicator of laboratory performance in general. The AHL is an AAVLD accredited laboratory and holds accreditation with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard for specific tests, with a fully audited quality assurance program to address results quality; however, users of the AHL's services are interested in service quality, which as well as delivering test accuracy, also includes availability, cost, relevance and timeliness. Of these characteristics, timeliness is perhaps the most important factor to the producer or veterinarian looking at other livestock or poultry at risk. Unsatisfactory TAT is a major source of complaints to diagnostic laboratories regarding poor service, and consumes much time and effort from laboratory staff in complaint resolution and service improvement if it is not addressed.

Resource Summary

Management Discussion and Analysis

The Ministry of Agriculture 2014/15 budget was $79.733M. Through the year, additional funding was obtained as follows:

Core Business	Other Authorizations ($000)	Description
Agriculture Science and Policy	5,000	Grant to Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Business Development	1,800	Buy Local BC Program
	6,800	**Total Other Authorization**

The Ministry's total expenditure spending of $85.257M is a combination of the base budget and contingency approvals and other authorizations.

Looking forward, the ministry has a budget of 80.229M reflecting a modest increase for the Economic Resource Stability Mandate while continuing to support key prior year initiatives of Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief, and the Tree Fruit Replant Programs.

Financial Report

Financial Report Summary Table

Ministry of Agriculture	2014/15 Estimates	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Agriculture Science and Policy	15,901	5,000	20,901	19,799	1,102
Business Development	40,519	1,800	42,319	44,297	(1,978)
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	0	896	916	(20)
Executive and Support Services	6,901	0	6,901	5,801	1,100
Agriculture Land Commission	3,516	0	3,516	3,185	331
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	12,000	(700)	11,300	11,300	0
Sub Total	79,733	6,100	85,833	85,298	535
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual[2]	0	0	0	(41)	41

Ministry of Agriculture	2014/15 Estimates	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Total	79,733	6,100	85,833	85,257	576
Ministry Capital Expenditures ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	294	0	294	279	15
Total	294	0	294	279	15
Capital Plans ($000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

Notes:

[1] Other Authorizations amounts represent approved access to Contingency for $5M to Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, $1.8M payment to Buy Local BC Program, and $0.700M additional transfer payment from the Ministry Operations to Production Insurance Special Account.

[2] The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $0.041M is a reversal of an over accruals in the previous fiscal year.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

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For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture, including full contact information, visit our website at: www.gov.bc.ca/agri

Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission

Purpose of the Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission is the provincial agency responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land use zone for the primary use of agriculture. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the Agricultural Land Commission is accountable to the legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. Its operations are funded by a vote of the legislature.

In general, an administrative tribunal is a specialized government agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. Administrative tribunals engaged in an adjudicative process function in a manner more closely analogous to the courts. Procedure is less formal than before the courts and the rules of evidence do not apply, although decisions must be based only on sound evidence. The Agricultural Land Commission is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner.

The work of the Agricultural Land Commission is carried out by provincial government appointed Commissioners, who are organized into six regional panels. The appointed Commissioners are the board of directors of the Agricultural Land Commission which is supported by professional staff located in Burnaby.

The purposes of the Agricultural Land Commission as set out in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* are:

- To preserve agricultural land;
- To encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- To encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

The core business functions of the Agricultural Land Commission are land use planning and policy, working with local governments and stakeholders on land use matters affecting the Agricultural Land Reserve, compliance and enforcement and land use applications. The Commission adjudicates 500-700 land use change applications per year and the ALC reports out annually on its operational activities and changes to the ALR in an annual report.

Through its annual business plan and other strategic documents, the Agricultural Land Commission establishes the goals, objectives and strategies it believes are necessary to achieve its mandate. Further information about the work of the Agricultural Land Commission may be found at www.alc.gov.bc.ca

Agricultural Land Commission Business Plan

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

Goal 1: Preserve Agricultural Land and Encourage Farming

Objective 1.1: Preserve the provincial agricultural land base through comprehensive decision making

Strategies:

- Consideration of agricultural capability and suitability of lands under application.
- Consideration of the potential impacts on the land base and the agricultural use of the land base.

Objective 1.2: Expand current planning functions to include proactive planning related to community planning, major projects and emerging issues.

Strategies:

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff early in their land use planning processes.
- Encourage local government and other land use agencies to develop agriculturally sympathetic land use planning.
- Review Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in select areas of the province with a view to confirming the accuracy and appropriateness of the boundary.
- Become involved in major projects at the early conceptual developmental phase.
- Research and assess emerging issues that impact the agricultural land base.

Objective 1.3: Ensure a high degree of compliance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, regulation and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Strategies

- Ensure compliance with the Act, regulations and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission based on current resources.
- Follow up on complaints of inappropriate use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

Objective 1.4: Propose ways to strengthen the Agricultural Land Commission's mandate and improve operations.

Strategies

- Work with the Minister responsible to bring forward proposed legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the Agricultural Land Reserve and the mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Executive Summary[1]

Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, BCFIRB provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, BCFIRB provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. BCFIRB consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

BCFIRB's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*.

They include:

- supervising B.C.'s regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- hearing appeals of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and
- conducting farm practices studies.

Through its annual strategic plan and other strategic documents, BCFIRB establishes the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures it believes are necessary to achieve its mandates. Further information about BCFIRB may be found at http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results:

Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.

Objective 1.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.

[1] The complete BCFIRB Annual Service Plan Report can be found at http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/.

Strategies:

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, in compliance with legislation/regulations and in accord with sound marketing policy.
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest.
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary.
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training.
- While preserving its independence as a tribunal, continuing to work to ensure effective relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, regulatory agencies at all levels, and stakeholders.

Performance Measure 1: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance & fiscal procedures.	Met	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

Although issues remain outstanding, BCFIRB is generally satisfied with the continuing progress that boards and commissions are making towards demonstrating best practices in their governance and fiscal procedures.

Performance Measure 2: Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.	Met	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

Performance Measure 3: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BCFIRB expenditures are on budget.	9% over official budget*	5.4% over official budget*	Expenditures are within 5%	Expenditures are within 5%	Expenditures are within 5%

BC Farm Industry Review Board's 2014/15 official budget was $891,000. The Board received a separate $100,000 Ministry contribution in 2014/15 in recognition of continued budget pressures including those related to its new responsibilities under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. BCFIRB's total expenditures for the fiscal year were just under $939 thousand, falling within the

combined budget plus separate ministry allotment. Continued efforts were undertaken in 2014/15 to streamline operations and find efficiencies.

In its 2013/14 Annual Service Plan BCFIRB forecast a budget shortfall for 2014/15 and identified growing business risk and the need for incremental budget in the future. Supervision is a legal requirement of the regulated marketing system. BCFIRB worked with the Ministry to explore alternative funding options to address the chronic funding challenges, including considering whether the recovery of supervisory costs from the regulated marketing sector should occur as that sector is the primary beneficiary of regulated marketing legislation. As a result of this work, BCFIRB's budget increased by $300,000.

Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.

Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.

Strategies:

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt and employ a principles-based approach to regulation.
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply.
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels.

Performance Measure 4: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BCFIRB & Boards and Commissions apply SAFETI principles.	Met	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

BCFIRB continues to place a high priority on the implementation of a principles-based outcomes-oriented regulation.

Performance Measure 5: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the NPMA.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Orders, decisions & determinations are published promptly.	Met	Met	All meet 2015/16 expectations	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations

In 2014, as required by its practices and procedures, BCFIRB routinely posted its complaints and appeals decisions after seven days following the decision. Supervisory decisions were similarly posted in a timely fashion. BCFIRB also published all significant correspondence. BCFIRB regularly reminded boards and commissions of the importance of publishing promptly so as not to infringe the rights of appeal under the NPMA by those aggrieved by or dissatisfied with a decision. BCFIRB also emphasized the importance of providing clear and public rationales for decisions taken. Boards and commissions generally post amendments to their General Orders in a timely manner.

Performance Measure 6: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for BC produced product.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
No production or base allocation loss in supply-managed sectors.	Exceeded	Exceeded	No loss	No loss	No loss

Growth in the farm-gate value for supply managed products continued, contributing to an estimated 2013 farm-gate value for the regulated marketing sector of $1.6 billion – up 5.7% over 2012. Regulated marketing sectors generate more than one-half the $2.8 billion farm gate value of all agricultural output in the province, with commensurate spinoff economic activity in the related processing and marketing sectors.

Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.

Objective 3.1: Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board's jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Strategies:

- Using farm practices studies to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes.
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes.
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*), and appeals (under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act*).

Performance Measure 7: BCFIRB reports annually on time from filing to resolution, cost per case, and user satisfaction for each of its appeals and complaints processes beginning 2015/16.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Actual
BCFIRB reports annually. Appeals and complaints are routinely handled within target process timelines	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The table below summarizes BCFIRB's appeals and complaints activities.

	Farm Practices Complaints	Regulated Marketing Appeals	Appeals under *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*
Carried forward from previous fiscal year	10	4	0
New appeals filed	9	22	10
Active appeals	19	26	10
Appeals resolved in fiscal year	**11**	**13**	**9**
Appeals carried forward	9	17	1

Each of the nine appeals filed under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* were resolved within the 29 business days established within BCFIRB's Practice Directive. Many regulated marketing appeals continue to be the subject of facilitation efforts with the remainder addressed within timelines established in the NPMA Practice Directive. Acting on its 2013/14 Annual Service Plan Report commitment, BCFIRB reviewed its practices and procedures for complaints and established practice guidelines for farm practices complaints under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*. Complaint timeliness will be reported against these new practice guidelines beginning in 2015/16. Work started in 2014/15 to set the groundwork for a user satisfaction survey and collection of cost-per-case statistics for each of BCFIRB's appeals and complaints processes to be implemented in 2015/16.

Performance Measure 8: Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Actual
ADR is used whenever appropriate	Met	Met	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate

BCFIRB is satisfied that its ADR processes were used whenever appropriate in resolving inquiries, complaints and disputes throughout 2014/15. BCFIRB continues, as a matter of practice, to make complainants and/or appellants aware of alternative dispute resolution options at the outset and throughout each dispute process as appropriate.

Appendix D – Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary

In the Premier's annual Mandate Letter to the Minister dated 10 June 2013, the Minister of Agriculture received direction on strategic priorities for the 2014/15 fiscal year. These priorities and the ministry's resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.	Divisional and branch budget letters were distributed that require activities including accurate monthly forecasting, quarterly budget review to identify issues and make timely adjustments, and balanced budgets.
2. Ensure the Agricultural Land Commission is delivering on the improvements promised arising from the budget increase it received in *Balanced Budget 2013*.	The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* was amended on May 29, 2014 to include an enhanced accountability and reporting regime for the Commission, including the ability for the Minister to set performance indicators for the Commission.
3. Ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is working for British Columbia and propose any changes necessary. These changes must successfully balance our desire to protect valuable farmland while allowing for responsible economic development opportunities.	Bill 24 (the *Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act*) was passed on May 29, 2014. It established two Zones in the ALR and created regional panels for ALC decision-making. The improvements include the creation of two ALC administered zones to better recognize the province's regional differences. In Zone 1, where land is in greater demand and there are development and population pressures, ALC decisions will continue to be made on the basis of the original principle of preserving agricultural land. In Zone 2, where growing seasons are shorter and there are lower value crops, ALC decisions will now, in addition to the original principle, include additional considerations to provide farmers with more flexibility to support their farming operations.
4. Bring forward ALR changes that will further encourage the stability of farm families and the farming industry in British Columbia.	On May 29, 2014 Bill 24, the 2014 Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act was passed, which helped to meet the goal outlined in the 2014-15 Service Plan. Furthermore, a consultation process was conducted during the summer of 2014 on how the Agricultural Land Commission Act's regulations could be amended to better align with this goal. A summary of the results of that consultation process were published in October 2014. Amendments to the regulation consistent with the Service Plan's goal are also currently under consideration.
5. Execute industry growth objectives as outlined in the BC Jobs Plan and the	The Ministry of Agriculture acted to ensure that the 2012 BC Agrifoods, a Plan for Growth was successfully

agricultural sector plan, *BC Agrifoods, a Plan for Growth*.	implemented to guide the development of the agrifood and seafood sector. Of the 49 actions, 47 have been completed and two are rolling over into the new Agrifood and Seafood Action Plan (actions 12.3 and 19.1).
6. Execute *Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow* commitments including:	
• Implementation of the additional Buy Local program funding;	• In August 2012, an initial $1.4 million to fund the Buy Local program was announced; 41 applications were approved over nine months, leveraging $5.1 million from industry for a total investment of $6.5 million. In 2014, government committed $2 million, with an additional $2 million announced in the 2015 Budget Speech;
• Creation of long-term and sustainable tree fruit replanting program upon the expiry of the current program;	• In November 2014, the Province announced an $8.4M Tree Fruit Replant Program to replant approximately 1,600 acres over 7 years. An additional $240,000 of funding was committed to be spent by March 31st, 2015 on projects to improve the Program and its success;
• Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement the 25 per cent tax credit for farmers on the value of farmed food that is donated to food banks;	• Ministry of Agriculture is working with Ministry of Finance to explore options to give farmers credit for their philanthropy;
• Implementation of a new meat inspection system by January 1, 2014 and work with the BC Association of Cattle Feeders to develop and promote their "Certified BC Beef" brand;	• A new meat inspection program was established by the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, Ministry staff worked with the BC Cattlemen's Association (BCAA) to establish "Certified BC Beef." BCAA advised they were rebranding "Certified BC Beef" to "100% BC Beef" and the Ministry continues to work with the BCAA in development and promotion of the new branding.
• Work with Intergovernmental Relations to break down interprovincial trade barriers on B.C. wine and to create new markets for B.C. vintners;	• The Ministry of Agriculture reached an agreement with Saskatchewan that will allow producers in both provinces to ship wine and craft spirits directly to consumers in each province. This will provide a particular benefit to small scale producers who don't have the size to sell through normal retail outlets;
• Work with the Ministry of Advanced Education to create a new Centre of Excellence for Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley; and	• The Ministry of Agriculture worked with the Ministry of Advanced education to successfully establish the BC Centre of Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley;
• Work with the provincial organic farming sector to create a "BC Organic" brand to market B.C. organic foods.	• The Ministry has consulted with the organics sector and options that are being evaluated to achieve these results include: regulating the term "organic", introducing a complaint based enforcement

	framework, new educational campaigns and transition assistance programs;
7. Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for B.C. agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.	The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of International Trade leveraged Growing Forward 2 funding to lead seventeen trade missions, trade shows and promotional events that helped increase industry's ability to grow BC agrifoods exports to Asia.
8. Implement Cohen Commission recommendations pertaining to British Columbia.	Following the release of the 2012 Cohen Commission report, the B.C. government responded to and actioned our responsibilities under the eight Commission recommendations that directly referenced the Province.
9. Working with the Minister of Finance, ensure that the carbon tax relief committed to the agricultural sector in Balanced Budget 2013 is delivered.	In 2014, $7.1 million in grants were provided to 178 BC greenhouses. Vegetable, floriculture, wholesale and forest seedling nursery commercial greenhouses. The 2015 Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program (GCTRGP) launched on January 16, receiving applications until March 23. It is expected that BC's greenhouse operators will receive over $7 million in relief from the GCTRGP in 2015.